

King's ear and the government of the country as soon as Parliament was dissolved. Indeed, since the Prince's death, he had already begun to show something of his wonted insolence. The knights of the shire justly complained that Lyons and Lord Lathner were living in luxury at home, feasting their partisans, as if they were victorious generals rather than convicted criminals awaiting further trial for other offences. But all that the Duke would consent to do was to remove the musicians from their seats. At these wassailings there is little doubt the favourites told each other across the table, that a good time was coming for all who served the House of Lancaster, when the sour-faced knights had gone home to look after their granger and fishponds. A scheme was therefore drawn up and passed by the Good Parliament before the close of the session, to supplant the Duke in the government of the King and kingdom. Councillors were chosen for Edward, by whose advice he was to act. Several of them were always to be with him, and all communications with the King on matters of policy were to be made by two or more of their body. The members were chosen by the Commons; none of them were friends of the late favourites, some were the Duke's worst enemies, and most had taken an active part in the impeachment<sup>\*\*</sup>. The principal persons on the Council were the Earl of March, Lord Percy, the Primate Sudbury, Courtenay Bishop of London, and William of Wykeham, the leader of the Bishops<sup>\*</sup>. Ministry turned out in 1871. If those men could have maintained the position assigned them by Parliament, John of Gaunt's power would have come to an end<sup>L<sup>u</sup></sup>.

But it was not destined to die yet. The lunatic proceeding of the members of the Good Parliament, after voting in July the money-grant which they had refused in April, was to attend on the King where he lay sick in his manor of Eltham on the borders of Kent. The object of this attendance was to hear the royal answers vouchsafed to the mass of petitions sent up in the course of the session. The Commons heard with disgust that the great majority had been refused or left without

<sup>1</sup> *Chron. Ang.*<sup>\*</sup>, 9S-C « *Rot.*<sup>\*</sup>  
*Parl.*, ii. 822 ; *Chron. Ang.*<sup>9</sup> lxxviii. S © «  
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